

**MOVING FORWARD: PROGRESS ON *STRAIGHT TALK* AND THE REPORT TO  
THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE - WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES  
STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the January 2003  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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**PURPOSE:**

To provide an update and additional operating and capital budget information to implement business plan strategies announced in December.

**ACTION/OUTCOME:**

The Commission is requested to reaffirm its endorsement of the 10-year financial assumptions incorporated in the operating and capital budgets for WSF previously approved by the Commission.

**BACKGROUND:**

WSF has presented to the Commission a strategic business plan that provides a balanced approach for bringing long-term financial viability to WSF operations, and a capital plan that will provide for the construction of new ferries. The successful implementation of these plans depends on passage by the legislature of enabling legislation and funding for WSF as presented in the 2003 – 2005 budget previously approved by the Commission.

**DISCUSSION:**

The WSF presentation will summarize the issues that must be resolved before the WSF strategic plans can be fully implemented. These issues are grouped as follows:

1. Tariff policy as it relates to promotional and commercial fares.
2. The passage of legislation creating opportunities and/or eliminating restrictions for the creation of new revenues from the fare box and other sources.
3. The structure of funds used by WSF and the reinvestment of budgeted resources into new ferry construction.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commission is requested to reaffirm its endorsement of the 10-year financial assumptions incorporated in the operating and capital budgets for WSF previously approved by the Commission.